

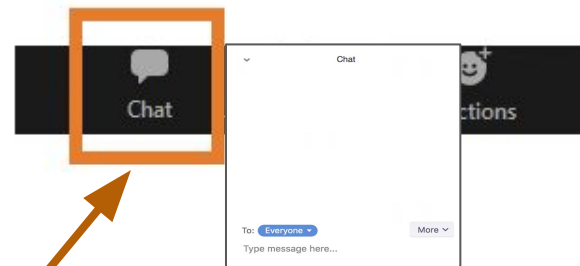
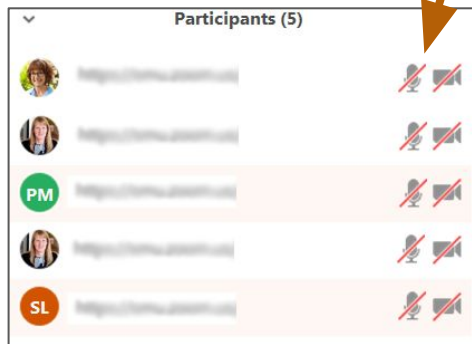
Webinar Series:

Controlled Vocabularies in Archival Description

15 March 2023

Call-in numbers: <https://zoom.us/join>
Meeting ID: 813-0921-3615

All lines are **muted**



Use **chat** for questions



Raise your hand to request to unmute

Using Controlled Vocabularies

15 March 2023

Presenters

Kerstin Arnold, Archives Portal Europe Foundation

Manonmani Restif and Louis Vignaud, Service interministériel des Archives de France

Santiago Muriel, Subdirección General de los Archivos Estatales, and Javier Requejo,
Archivo de la Real Chancillería de Valladolid

The what, why, how and when - An introduction to controlled vocabularies

Presenter

Kerstin Arnold (Archives Portal Europe Foundation)



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A webinar series on controlled vocabularies

- Two sets
 - Time zones from Europe to Oceania
 - Time zones from the Americas to Europe
- Three sessions each
 - Overview of controlled vocabulary use
 - Encoding controlled terms in archival description
 - Controlled vocabularies in practice



Definitions



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The Tower of Babel, Pieter Bruegel the Elder, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam (via Wikimedia Commons), PDM

What are vocabularies?

- List of standardised terms or codes
- Controlled
 - Process in place to agree on initial list
 - Process in place to agree on changes
- Authorised
- Available for use

More sophisticated types of vocabularies

- Taxonomies
 - List of terms with classification, often organised hierarchically (broader/narrower, parent/child), can be polyhierarchical
- Thesauri
 - Can also include cross-references (“see also”) and synonyms, antonyms, and variations (“same as”), may include explanation and history of terms
- Ontologies
 - More relationship options between terms and more specific types of relationships, relationships between different types of entities, often domain-specific

Background



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Access points on ISAD(G)

Access point. A *name, term, keyword, phrase or code* that may be *used to search, identify and locate* an archival description.

...based upon the elements of description. The[ir] value ... is enhanced through authority control. ... importan[t] for retrieval

ISAD(G), 2nd edition:

https://www.ica.org/sites/default/files/CBPS_2000_Guidelines_ISAD%28G%29_Second-edition_EN.pdf



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Access points on ISAD(G)

...separate ICA standard, ISAAR-CPF, [...that] gives general rules for the establishment of archival authority records that describe the corporate bodies, persons, and families that may be named as creators in descriptions of archival documents. [...] Vocabularies and conventions to be used with other access points should be developed nationally, or separately for each language.

ISAD(G), 2nd edition:

https://www.ica.org/sites/default/files/CBPS_2000_Guidelines_ISAD%28G%29_Second-edition_EN.pdf



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Building a National Finding Aid Network ([NAFAN](#))

- Project in the United States of America
 - September 2020 to February 2023
 - Archival description that supports discovery
 - Analysis of EAD tag usage
 - 145k archival collections encoded in EAD XML
 - 12 regional aggregation services
 - [EAD Data Dashboard](#)

NAFAN's EAD Data Dashboard

- Occurrence of the element <controlaccess>
 - Collection or fonds level: 85% of the collections analysed
 - Mostly subjects, followed by names of persons, organisations, and places, plus types of materials
 - Only little on names of families and occupations
 - Nearly nothing on functions
 - Lower description levels: 2% of the components analysed

Further analysis conducted by NAFAN

- From using access terms to using controlled vocabularies
 - 45+% of all access terms mentioned a controlled vocabulary as their source
 - From 46% of names of organisations to 83% of subjects
 - Not even 10% of all access terms pointed to the URI of the specific term within the vocabulary
 - From 3% of names of places to 8.6% of names of persons

Europeana Publishing Framework

- [Europeana](#) aggregates and gives access to the continent's digitised cultural heritage
- Three tiers to define [metadata quality](#) aiming at improving discovery - “the more you give, the more you get”
 - Enabling elements (i.e. textual information about subjects, places, people, and timespans)
 - Contextual classes (i.e. using vocabulary terms and URIs to represent subjects, places, people, and timespans)

When vocabularies can help



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Languages, writing systems, spellings

Tiziano Vecellio

Titian

Тициан

טִיציאַן

Titien

提齊安諾·維伽略



Tiziano Vecelli

Τιτσιάνο

Tizian

Titiaan

تیتیان

ティツィアーノ・
ヴェチェツリオ

Tiziano Vecellio, Autorretrato, Museo del Prado, Madrid (via Wikimedia Commons), PDM



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Localisation

Brötchen

Semmel

Weck

Schrippe

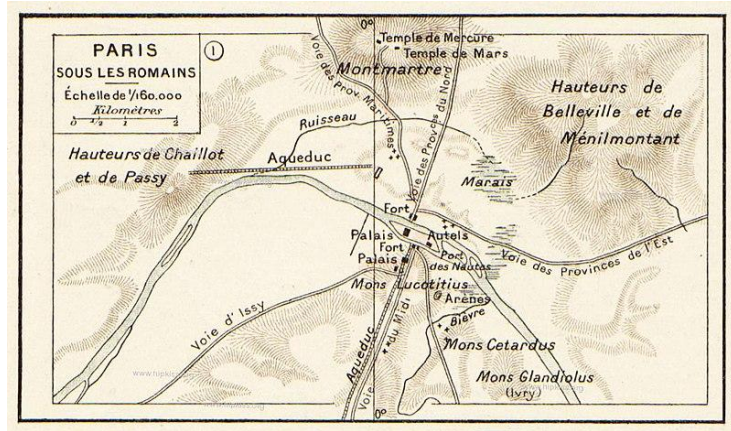


Rundstück

Bömmel

Stüütkes

Historical and contemporary terms



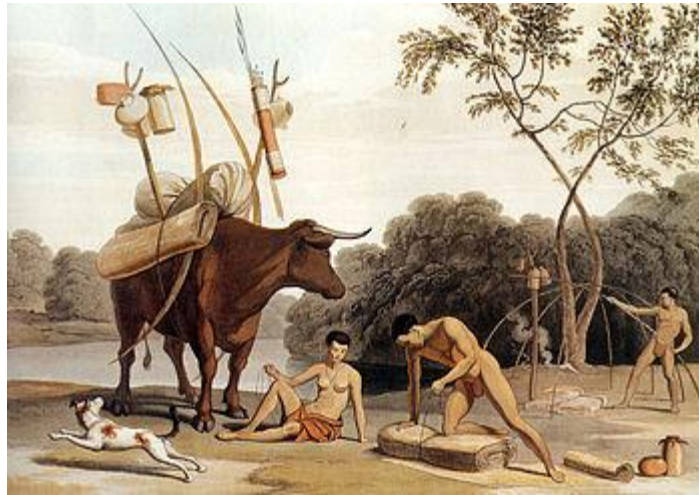
Lutetia



Paris

Paul Vidal de La Blache, Maps of Paris (Paris sous les Romains) from Atlas Général Histoire et Géographie (via Wikimedia Commons), PDM / Copernicus Sentinel-2 (ESA), Paris (via Wikimedia Commons), CC BY-SA

Culturally inappropriate terms



Original caption: “Korah Hottentots preparing to remove”. - Samuel Daniell, African Scenery and Animals, 1805. - The British Museum

Samuel Daniell, [Korak-Khoekhoen](#) dismantling their huts, preparing to move to new pastures (via Wikimedia Commons), PDM

Domain- or content-specific terms

Archivbestand 1 in den Abteilung XII mit abgeschlossenen Vorgängen der Vorgangsarten:

Beobachtungsvorgang , Einzelvorgang , Fahndungsvorgang , Geheimer Informator , Geheimer Mitarbeiter , Gesellschaftlicher Mitarbeiter für Sicherheit , Gruppenvorgang , Inoffizieller Mitarbeiter , Kontrollvorgang , Objektvorgang , Operative Personenkontrolle , Operativer Vorgang , Teilvorgang , Überprüfungsvorgang , Untersuchungsvorgang , Zentraler Operativer Vorgang , Zelleninformator , Feindobjektakte und Kontrollobjektakte und Arbeitsakten von Offizieren im besonderen Einsatz sowie nichtregistriertem Material ehemals KK-erfasster Personen und sonstigem Material mit Personenbezug.

Snapshot of the website of the archives of the Federal Commissioner for the Records of the State Security Service of the former German Democratic Republic
(<https://www.bstu.de/mfs-lexikon/detail/hauptablage-operative/>)



How vocabularies can be used



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Retrieval



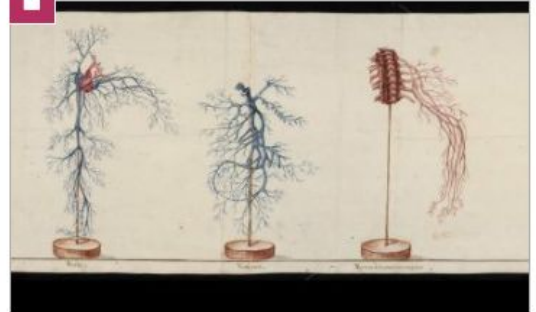
Leisure

Free time, public holidays, and town fairs



Maps

Geographical maps of different type



Medical sciences

Documents related to research and treaties on medicine

Topics on Archives Portal Europe, <https://www.archivesportaleurope.net/explore>

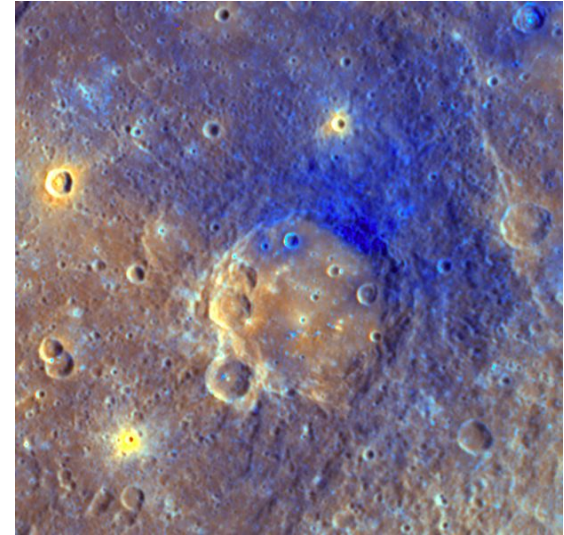
Disambiguation



Titian of Oderzo



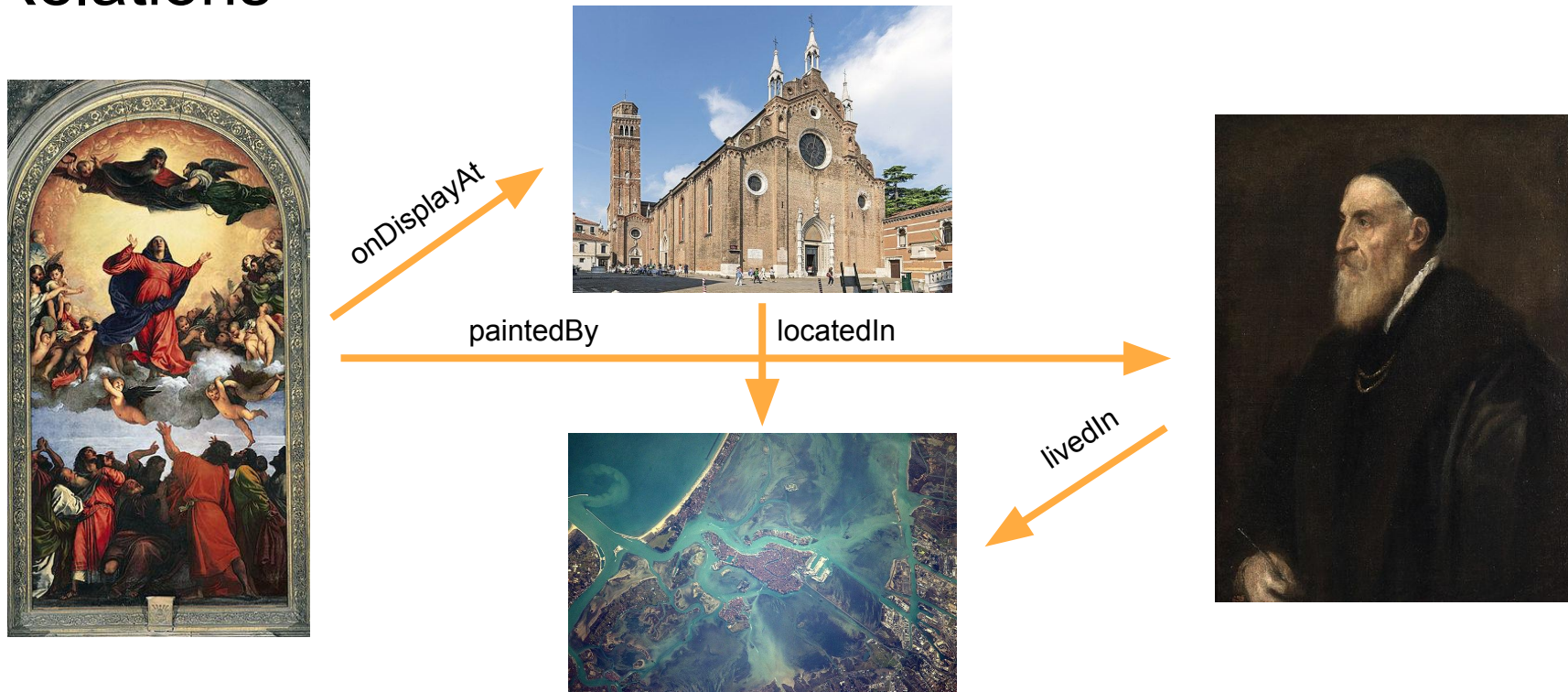
Titian



Titian crater

Anonymous, Portrait of Titian of Oderzo, photograph by Didier Descouens (via Wikimedia Commons), CC BY-SA /
Tiziano Vecellio, Autorretrato, Museo del Prado, Madrid (via Wikimedia Commons), PDM / NASA, Titian crater (via Wikimedia Commons), PDM

Relations



Tiziano Vecellio, Assumption of Mary, photograph by The Yorck Project, CC BY-SA / Didier Descouens, Basilica di Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari, CC BY-SA /
Tiziano Vecellio, Autorretrato, Museo del Prado, Madrid, PDM / NASA, Venice from the International Space Station, PDM - all via Wikimedia Commons

Which vocabularies can be used



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Which vocabulary when and for what

- Organisational, national, international
 - The broader the use, the easier connections can be made with materials from other institutions and other domains
 - The more specific the use, the more specific terms can be applied if required by and useful for the material being described
- Different vocabularies for different types of terms



Examples: Vocabularies supported by Europeana

- Subjects and concepts
 - [UNESCO Thesaurus](#), [Wikidata](#), [Library of Congress Subject Headings](#) (LCSH), [Getty Art & Architecture Thesaurus](#) (AAT)
- Persons
 - [Virtual International Authority File](#) (VIAF), [Getty Union List of Artist Names](#) (ULAN), [Library of Congress Name Authority File](#) (LCNAF)

Examples: Vocabularies supported by Europeana

- Places
 - [GeoNames](#), [Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names](#) (TGN)
- Genres or types of materials and objects
 - [ICONCLASS](#), [Europeana Sounds Genres](#), [Fashion Thesaurus](#) (link to download), [Thesaurus of musical instrument names](#) (MIMO)

Examples: National vocabularies

- [YSO](#) (Finland)
- [BnF Data](#) (France)
- [GND Explorer](#) (Germany)
- [Semantics.gr](#) (Greece)
- [KulturNav](#) (Norway)



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Evolutions of Indexing Practices in French Archives

Presenters

Jeanine Gaillard (Archives nationales de France)

Alice Motte (Archives départementales des Landes)

Manonmani Restif and Louis Vignaud (Service interministériel des Archives de France)



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Organisation of archives in France

- Service interministériel des Archives de France (Ministry of Culture): defines the rules, coordinates and controls the activities of public archival institutions organised according to the principle of provenance:
 - Archives nationales de France for state and other national level archives with 400 linear km of collections
 - Local archives of which the 97 Archives départementales, created in 1796, are the main archival institutions with 2,800 linear km of archives
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defence have their own network of archival institutions
- Archives in public libraries and universities have their own organisation and guidelines to use EAD, as well as two aggregators: Calames and Catalogue collectif de France

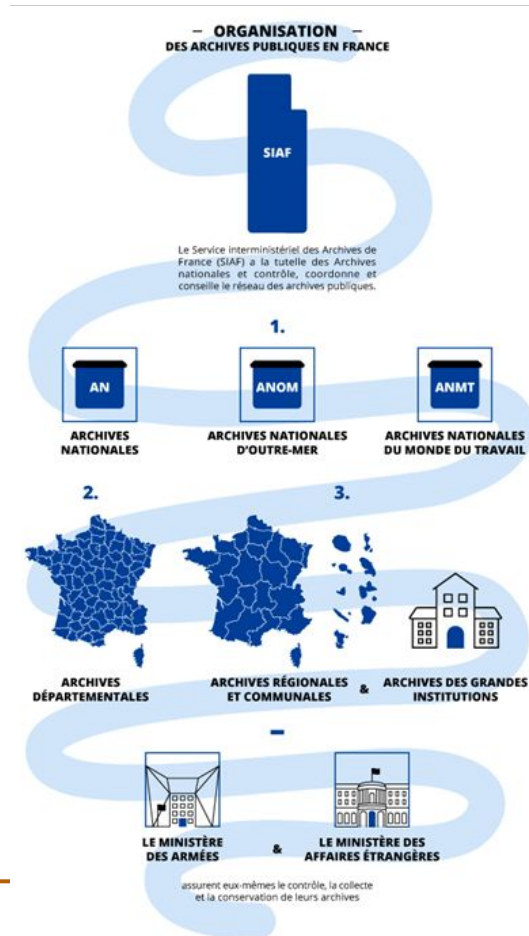


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1. A long tradition of indexing
2. A national network of federated practice
3. The Archives départementales des Landes experience
4. The Archives nationales experience



A long tradition of indexing



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A slow maturation of a doctrine

Instructions on description and indexing:

- 1963. Instruction on indexation: **use of local vocabularies / indexing based on description.**
- 1987. Description of post 1940 archives.
- 1989. Thesaurus W: **thesaurus for indexing subjects in local archives.**
- 1994. Instruction on description and indexing of post 1940 archives: **indexing based on the description / use of vocabularies**, mainly local, except for subjects (thesaurus W).
- 2007. State of art of indexing: use of **national vocabularies** (Thesaurus W, PRIAM 3, BORA) and library vocabularies (RAMEAU, Motbis...).

Example of PRIAM 3 at the National Archives

- **1969.** A satellite center for contemporary archives opened.
- **1980.** *PRIAM 3* software - based on Text relational database management system - is used with pragmatism:
 - Summary and indexing of archives directly typed by the producers.
 - Indexing in natural language.
 - Different concepts indexed, particularly the object (subject) and administrative actions to fit cross searching.
- **1987.** Decision to group and harmonize terms in a controlled vocabulary repository.
- **2009.** About 18,000 fonds described and indexed.
- **2013.** Its vocabularies reused in the new archival information system.

PRIAM 3 was designed to be available to archivists AND researchers.



Guidance & legacy

Describing post-1940 archives

- Compulsory elements of a description are:
 - **Object** → <subject>
 - **Intervention or action** → <subject>
 - Type of documents → <genreform>
 - Dates
 - Person → <persname>
 - Organisation → <corpname>
- Indexation based on the description.
- Use of vocabularies, mainly local, except for subjects (thesaurus W).
- Indexation at the appropriate level.

Archives départementales..... Versement..... W page

FICHE D'INDEXATION

Ensemble du bordereau :

Articles ou groupes d'articles	Descripteurs	Mot-outil	Typologie

Thesaurus W: indexing subjects in local archives

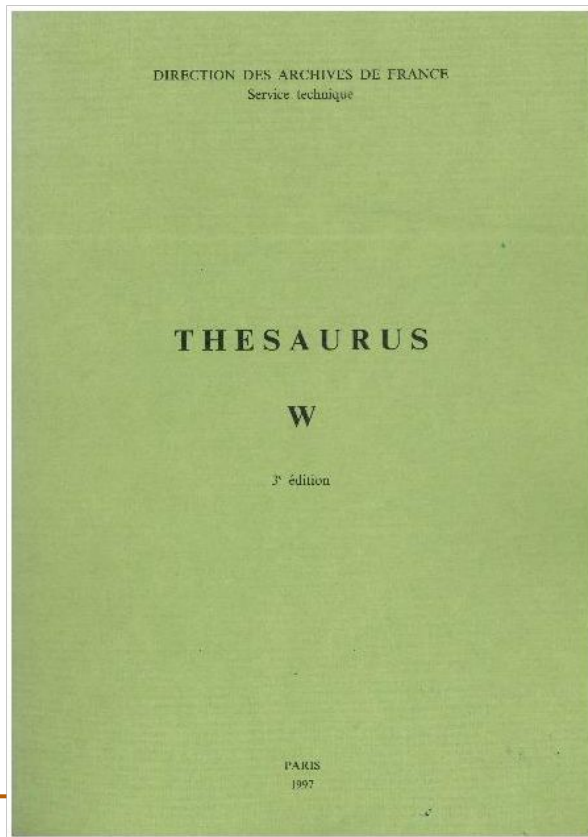
1987, 1989 and 1997

Three editions. Paperback.

1,015 terms organised in 10 classes corresponding to broad administrative functions:
administration, justice, society, ...

Alphabetical list of the terms

2 alphabetical lists of terms for administrative actions and types of documents



2009-2012

4th edition: Thesaurus for indexing local archives

1,502 concepts (2,507 terms) with 957 alignments to other vocabularies

Extension to concepts of Medieval and Modern France

Partially adapted to the norm ISO 25964 on thesaurus

Available online with Ark identifiers, in XML-SKOS and in a SPARQL endpoint

A national network of federated practice



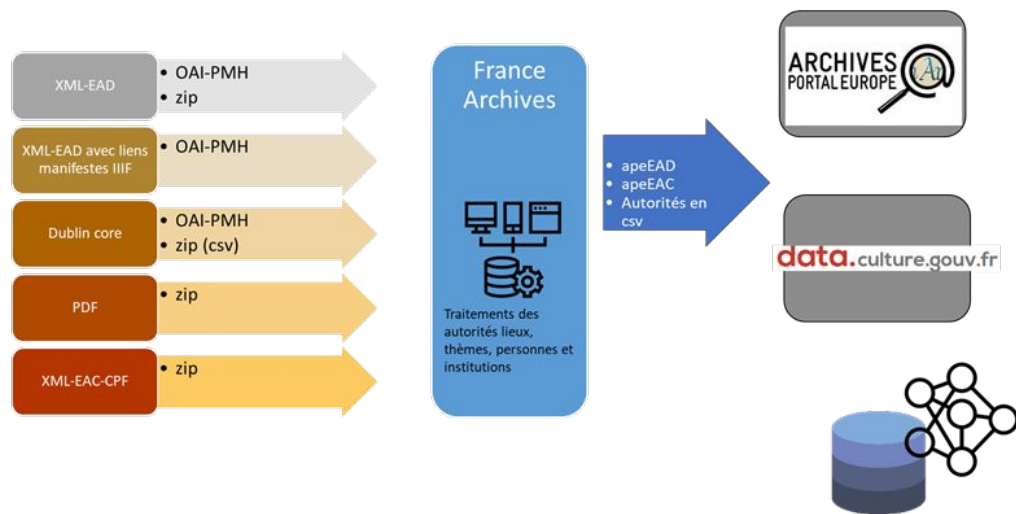
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FranceArchives: observatory of indexing practices



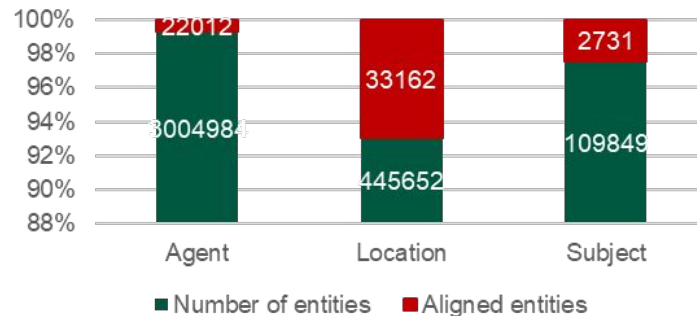
Proportion of indexed metadata



Vocabularies used for alignments:

- Places: [Geonames](#)
- Agents: [Wikidata](#) and [data.bnf](#)
- Subjects: [Thesaurus matières](#)

Indexes aligned to external vocabularies



The "indexing & description of archives" working group

Context

- The need for shared vocabularies isn't new
- Today, the context is favorable to **interoperability**

Computerisation of the business (archivists & users)

- Automation is partially based on structured metadata
- The Web promotes the sharing and reuse of vocabularies
- Aggregators (FranceArchives, Archives Portal Europe) are *de facto* repositories

Working Group

- Created in 2020 by the SIAF with representatives from national, and local archival institutions
- Putting indexing back at the core of archival practices
- Facilitate the user's search of information
- Perimeter: Subject indexing (theme), agents (individuals, families and corporate bodies), locations



Flaticon (4807598)

Indexing guides for archives

Goal

- Publication of a first version of the guide in 2021
- A Toolkit for archival institutions
- Harmonising practices at the national level

Contents of the guide

- How to develop an indexing policy ?
- Implementing its computerised version (XML EAD + software)
- Examples / Presentation of standardised use cases

To be continued...

- Update of the guide (v2 about 2023/24)
- Studies about Web exposed vocabularies
- Updating the French theme thesaurus

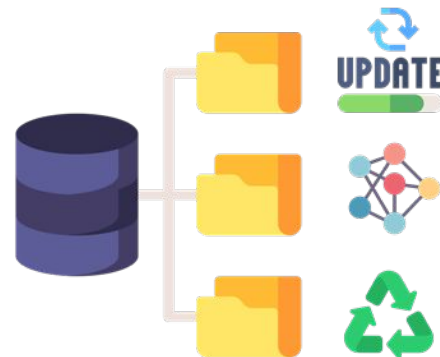


Flaticon (1705312)

Repositories on the Web

Subject / Theme > Creating a dedicated repository

- Update by co-construction with the archive network
- An "archives" repository (French Ministry of Culture) + local satellites
- Alignments + A light and dynamic governance



Agents > Supplementing by subsidiarity

- Archival needs are poorly covered by existing vocabularies (ISNI, VIAF, Wikidata, data.bnf.fr)
- Build a repository by aggregating agents on FranceArchives
- Alignment with national (future « FNE » or “National Entities File”) and international vocabularies

Places > Reuse existing offers

- Study of Geonames and national geographic reference systems
- Balance! Each existing offer has an important limitation:
geo-historical dimension, updating, durability, scope, standardisation, etc.

The Archives départementales des Landes experience



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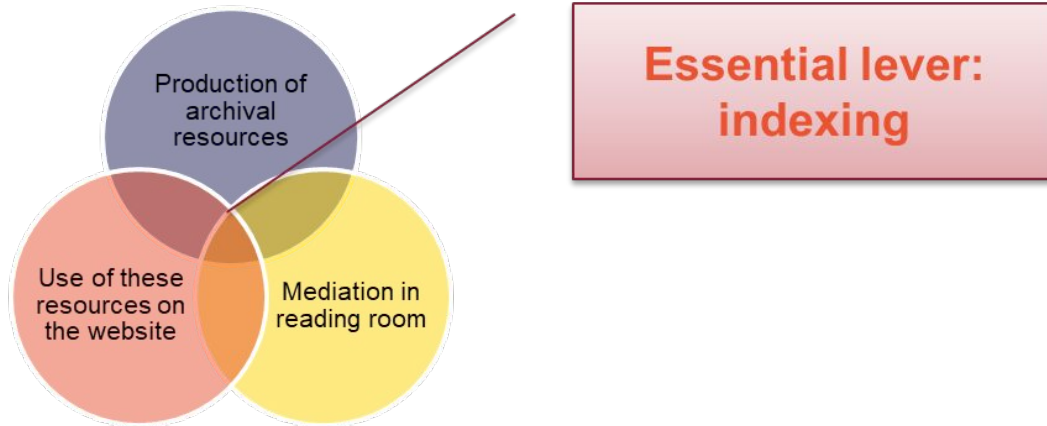
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An indexing strategy relying on an *user centred* approach

Promoting access to documents by **users** is the core of this strategy based on the following goals:

- Facilitate the search for documents by the public
- Make known the diversity of the archival resources kept by the institution
- Improve the articulation between what is available **online** and the resources that can only be accessed **in the reading room**.

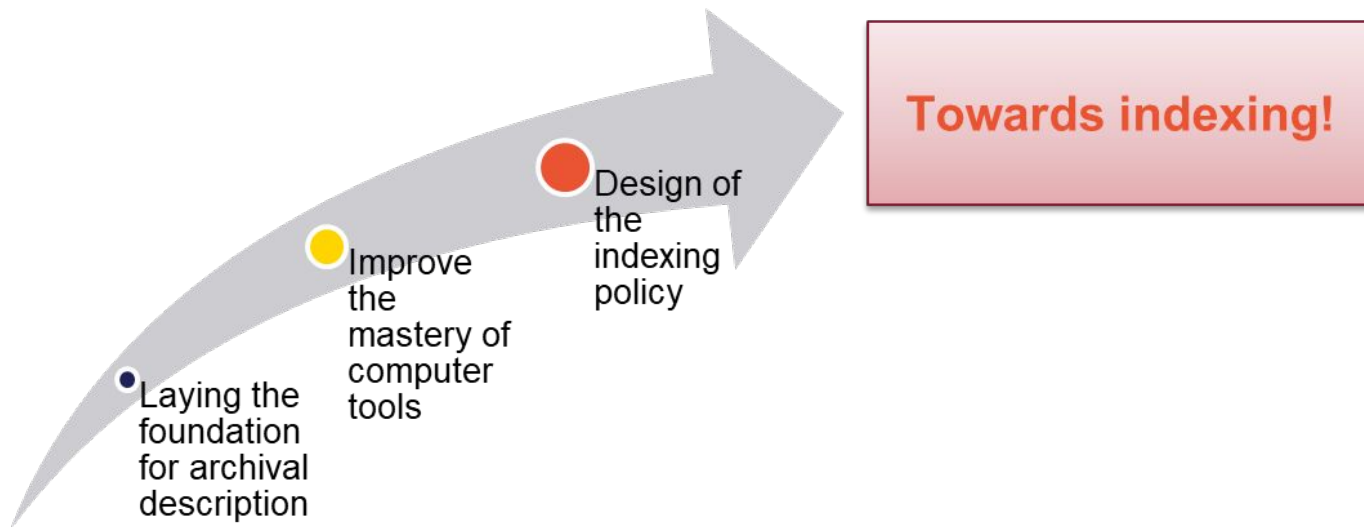
A **cross-disciplinary project**, which involves **the entire team** of the institution.



A long-term project, requiring essential prerequisites

A long-term process,

whose main feature lies in the **association** and **support of the entire team**:



The indexing options: two intersecting goals, aiming at a medium solution

Local level

Promote the knowledge
of the *Landes* fonds

- An "indexing of proximity"
- Creation of local indexing vocabularies, in addition to national ones (specificities of Landes history: people, toponyms, social practices, etc.)
- Thinking about displaying natural language terms for "mainstream" understanding

(Interna)national level

Offer *Landes* resources
a widest visibility

- A "quality indexing"
- Use of national vocabularies
- Use of alternatives terms in addition of canonical terms
- XML tuning : use of EAD attributes to promote alignment with other alignments (@authfilenumber + URI)

The Archives nationales experience



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A contrasting situation at the Archives nationales

In 2013 the release of the first archival information system common to all sites of the Archives nationales reflected a new organisation...

without **fixing the past heterogeneity of indexing practices**:

- Contemporary archives indexed with **vocabularies** in PRIAM3 / traditional paper finding aids converted in EAD files without recovering the **indexes transformed in plain text**.
- Use of **17 indexing vocabularies** (places, persons, subjects, functions...) based on PRIAM3 vocabularies and enriched on an as-needed basis **difficult to handle in the AIS**.
- Vocabularies not really **interoperable** due to their custom DTD.
- **Enrichments and alignments** with national (e.g. BnF) and international (Geonames) vocabularies in RDF conducted during research projects **cannot be reused within the AIS** though exposed on GitHub for researchers.



DALL-E : 3D rendering of a construction site with lot of books, computer, tools, pencils and a construction plot

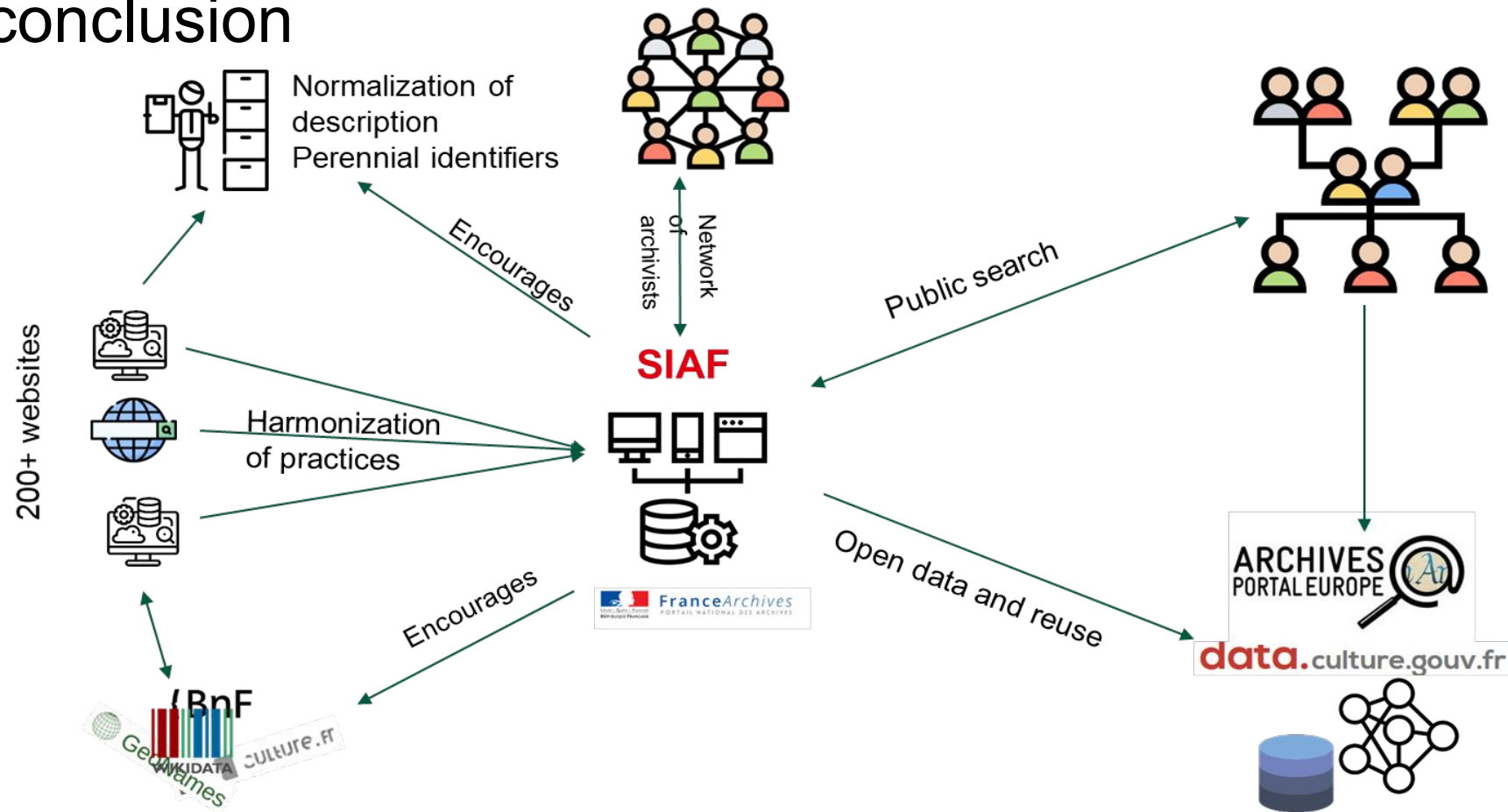
But a profusion of projects

Several projects are planned or in progress **to fix legacy problems**:

- The functional upgrade of the archival information system to allow **shared external vocabularies**.
- Creating an archivist's toolbox, promoting **sharing experiences between colleagues**.
- Opening up to new perspectives such as **joining national or international reference systems**.



In conclusion





Archives des Bouches-du-Rhône

Thank you for
your attention!

Contact:

francearchives.siaf@culture.gouv.fr

archivage.numerique.siaf@culture.gouv.fr

Source illustrations: [Flat Icon](#)



Controlled Vocabularies in National State Archives of Spain

Presenters

Javier Requejo Zalama (Archivo de la Real Chancillería de Valladolid)

Santiago Muriel Hernández (Subdirección General de los Archivos Estatales)



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Spanish Standards for Archival Description (NEDA)

National package of standards approved between 2012 and 2018:

- NEDA-MC: Conceptual Model of Archival Description
- NEDA-Req: Basic data for Archival Description
- NEDA-Voc: Vocabulary of Terms.

Basic principle of NEDA Standards:

Archival Description is composed by Archival Entities related between them.



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ARCHIVOS
ESTATALES



Portal de Archivos Españoles

Archival Entities according with NEDA

RECORDS

Record sets, simple records or parts of a record (10 different subtypes)

AGENTS

Corporate Bodies, Families or Persons involved of Records (3 subtypes)

FUNCTIONS

Measures taken by Agents and testified in Records (4 subtypes)

Archival Entities according with NEDA

MANDATES

Provisions that regulate the existence of Agents, Functions and Records.

PLACES

Particular spaces

CONCEPTS, OBJECTS OR EVENTS

Abstract ideas, notions, material items, events or occurrences involved of records.

Mandates

- Regulations.
- Written or unwritten rules.
- Historical or current regulations.
- Official legislation.
- Technical standards.
- etc.



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Places

- Terrestrial and extraterrestrial locations.
- Historical and current sites.
- Groupings of territories.
- Jurisdictional or political areas.
- Geographical features.
- Engineering works (roads, bridges, channels, dams, etc.).
- Pilgrimage or commercial routes.
- Any point of polygon that can be identified in a map.
- etc.

Concepts, objects or events

CONCEPTS

- Abstract notions: Religions, political ideas, philosophical trends, disciplines...
- Categories or types of things (occupations, positions, ethnical groups...).
- Legendary, mythical or fictional agents and places.

OBJECTS

- Individual objects that exist in real life (neither persons nor records).
- Fictional objects and materials, that do not exist in real life.

EVENTS

- Periods of time or specific happenings in the past, present or future.

Spanish Archives Portal (PARES)

The [Spanish Archives Portal \(PARES\)](#) is the main platform for the dissemination of Spanish Historical Documentary Heritage, created and managed by the Sub-directorate General of the State Archives of the Ministry of Culture and Sport.

It contains descriptive files and digitised images of the documentary collections kept in the State Archives:

- 5,403,867 records (descriptions of documents).
- 36,770,789 digital objects.
- 72,256 descriptions of no documentary entities



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General rules for using Controlled vocabularies in the Spanish Archives Portal (PARES)

DEPENDING ON THE LEVEL DESCRIPTION:

- Funds/Funds Divisions: agents involved in the production, creation, custody, management and accumulation of documents.
- Collections: collecting agents.
- Series: mainly functions and activities.
- Documentary units: all the entities directly related (agents, places, concepts, rules...).

GENERAL RULES:

- Only the entities mentioned in the document descriptions shall be linked.
- Each entity may only be represented by one authorised form/preferred term, regardless of its relationship to the documentation.



Descriptions for each entity, and relations between them and the documents entities.

- **Agents:** based on ISAAR-CPF, with elements of EAC-CPF.
- **Functions:** based on ISDF.
- **Places, Concepts, Mandates:** based on UNE-ISO standards. Thesauri.
- **RELATIONS:**
 - The relations are specified according to the types established by various standards: EAC-CPF, NEDA, etc.
 - The relationships are represented in the portal as hyperlinks between the unit descriptions of each entity.

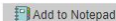
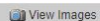
Entities and relations. Examples:

- Battle of Lepanto (event):
<http://pares.mcu.es/ParesBusquedas20/catalogo/autoridad/101379>
- Miguel de Cervantes (person):
<http://pares.mcu.es/ParesBusquedas20/catalogo/autoridad/117180>
- Writers (occupation):
<http://pares.mcu.es/ParesBusquedas20/catalogo/autoridad/103131>
- Alcalá de Henares (place):
<http://pares.mcu.es/ParesBusquedas20/catalogo/autoridad/82174>
- Document: <http://pares.mcu.es/ParesBusquedas20/catalogo/description/12631375>
- Consejo de Castilla (institution):
<http://pares.mcu.es/ParesBusquedas20/catalogo/autoridad/46623>



Compound record unit related to the license application and printing privilege of El Quijote, by Miguel de Cervantes.

Archivo Histórico Nacional



Identity statement area

Supplied title: Compound record unit related to the license application and printing privilege of El **Quijote**, by Miguel de Cervantes.

Reference number: CONSEJOS.Doc.1159 [\[Original reference number\]](#)

Date of formation: 1604-sm-sd - 1604-09-11 , Valladolid (España)

Level of description: Unidad Documental Compuesta_en

Reference code: ES.28079.AHN/CONSEJOS.Doc.1159

[Location in the archive classification scheme](#)

Context

Archival history: The collection of documents of the Councils Section of the National Historical Archive was created in the eighties of the last century with the purpose of collecting all those documents that, for reasons of preservation, installation or special protection, had to be extracted from their files and preserve separately. Thus, we can find the following casuistry:
- Documents on specially fragile supports (such as parchment).
- Documents that due to their exceptionally large size have the risk of degrading if they were maintained in a conventional installation.
- Documents that due to their small size were susceptible to being lost easily or even been stolen.
- And finally, this collection also included those documents that, due to their special value, required a special installation and greater control when they were consulted by the public (such as the case of the **Quijote** printing license and other documents of similar characteristics).
The archival principles always tend to avoid this type of extractions, but when it is the preservation and security of the documents what is at stake, it is preferred form these collections. These are even in the documentary collections of the producing institutions. In the case of the Councils Section, the issue is even more evident when the Council of Castile itself had a differentiated series called "Parchments" which accumulated documentation in this support.

Biography / administrative history:

Original reference number: CONSEJOS.44826 Exp.1

Name of the creator(s): **Consejo de Castilla (España)**

Content and Structure

Scope and content: It contains, among other documents, the Miguel de Cervantes memorial, in which it was requested the license and printing privilege of the book titled "El Ingenioso Hidalgo de la Mancha" for 20 years [undated] and the report of the royal chronicler Antonio de Herrera, in favor of the application requested [dated in Valladolid on September 11, 1604]

Conditions of Access and Use

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Image accessibility condition: Images/documents have no access restrictions

Language and scripts: Español (Alfabeto latino)

Description indices: **Cervantes Saavedra, Miguel de (1547-1616)**
Cervantes Saavedra, Miguel de (1547-1616) Don **Quijote** de la Mancha
Gallo de Andrada, Juan
Herrera Tordesillas, Antonio de (1549-1626)
Licencias de impresión
Ramírez de Arellano, Gil (ca.1555-1618)



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Description Section
Technical Subcommittee on
Encoded Archival Standards



Entities and relations. Examples:

- Document: <http://pares.mcu.es/ParesBusquedas20/catalogo/description/12893808>
- Archivo General de Simancas (institution):
<http://pares.mcu.es/ParesBusquedas20/catalogo/autoridad/46558>
- Turriano, Juanelo (person):
<http://pares.mcu.es/ParesBusquedas20/catalogo/autoridad/151254>
- Clockmasters (occupation):
<http://pares.mcu.es/ParesBusquedas20/catalogo/autoridad/103131>
- Toledo (place): <http://pares.mcu.es/ParesBusquedas20/catalogo/autoridad/82230>



Plan of a machine to raise fresh water from the river Tajo to the Alcazar of Toledo and supply the city.

Archivo General de Simancas

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Identity statement area

Supplied title: Plan of a machine to raise fresh water from the river Tajo to the Alcazar of Toledo and supply the city.

Reference number: MPD,27,3

Date of creation: 1561-10-17 , Toledo (España)

Level of description: Unidad Documental Simple_en

Reference code: ES.47161.AGS//MPD.27,3

[Location in the archive classification scheme](#)

Context

Original reference number: Procede de CSR,LEG.271

Name of the creator(s): [Junta de Obras y Bosques \(España\)](#)

Name of other related agents: [Archivo General de Simancas \(Valladolid, España\) - Coleccionista](#)

Content and Structure

Scope and content: Well know as clockmaster of Charles V, [Juanelo Turriano](#) (it. Giovanni Turriano, ca.1505-1585) started as clockmaker in Milano, where he stood up by his tricky machines. He could take contact with the emperor after his reconstruction of the complicated astronomical calendar of Giovanni Dondi, a gift of the city of Milano to Charles V, since then he worked for the emperor until his death in 1558, and then for his son Philip II until his own death. Charles V was very interested in clockery and Turriano built several clocks and automata for him, but Philip II engaged Turriano mainly as civil engineer, in the same way that other European engineers (Italians Antonelli and Spanocchi, Flemish Van Langeren and Spanish Herrera and Toledo). In 1565 Turriano was hired to build an engine to supply the Alcázar of Toledo with fresh water from the nearby Tajo river. He succeeded to build it in three years, and so well done that he was hired to build another one. The machine was at the time the highest water elevator in the world, providing Toledo with 17 cubic meters of water a day raised from 100 m below.

Conditions of Access and Use

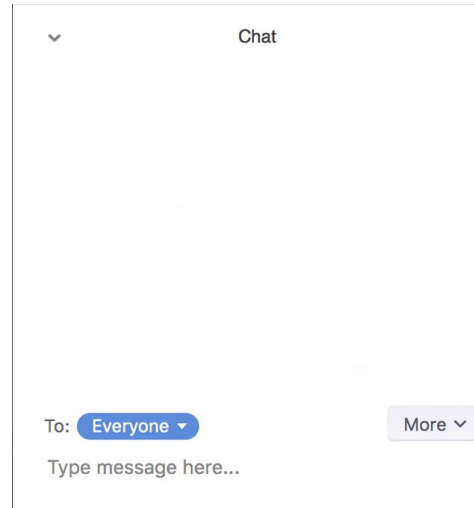
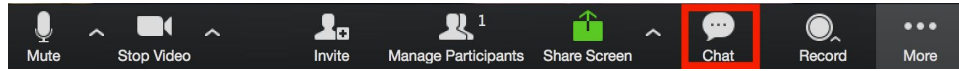
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Image accessibility condition: Images/documents have no access restrictions

Language and scripts: Español (Alfabeto latino).

Description indices: [Artificio de Juanelo \(Toledo, España\)](#)
[Bombas hidráulicas](#)

[Turriano, Juanelo \(ca. 1500-1585\)](#)



Use **chat** for questions

Thanks!

The recording will be available on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@SocietyofAmericanArchivists>



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